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Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the ninth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).

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Annex

Ninth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is the ninth[a] submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 March to 31 May 2002.

Briefings and consultations by the Executive Chairman

2. In the period under review, the Executive Chairman has continued his practice of providing monthly briefings to the Presidents of the Security Council. He has also kept the Secretary-General and his senior staff informed of the activities of UNMOVIC. He participated in the dialogue between the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Iraq on 7 March and again on 1 and 3 May. He also chaired technical talks on 2 May with an Iraqi delegation led by General Amir Al-Sa'adi and briefed members of the Council on their outcome on 3 May.

3. In addition, during the period covered by the present report, the Chairman has held discussions with Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He has also visited Beijing, London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., for consultations with senior members of the respective Governments. In New York, he has provided briefings to visiting ministers, parliamentarians and government officials and interviews to representatives of the media.

Iraq-United Nations dialogue

4. As mentioned above, the Executive Chairman participated in the discussions between the Secretary-General and an Iraqi delegation, led by the Foreign Minister of Iraq, on 7 March and again from 1 to 3 May. The Iraqi delegation at the latter meeting included officials familiar with Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes and the inspections in Iraq conducted by UNMOVIC's predecessor, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), and the meeting focused on inspection. During the May meetings, the Chairman replied in some detail to questions touching on UNMOVIC and its work that Iraq had submitted during the March round of talks.

5. The Chairman also explained how UNMOVIC planned to operate in Iraq and how he interpreted certain terms that arose in resolution 1284 (1999). He also mentioned how the Commission's expert staff was proceeding with work to identify unresolved disarmament issues as a basis for the later definition of "key remaining disarmament tasks". With respect to what may be required of Iraq to complete those tasks, the Chairman outlined the kinds of additional clarification that UNMOVIC might seek from Iraq. He further said that he believed it would be important to have full clarity about Iraq's cooperation on a number of practical issues before inspectors are deployed to Iraq. It would be unfortunate if UNMOVIC inspectors were to encounter practical problems when they started to work in Iraq.

6. The Chairman welcomes Iraq's willingness to discuss issues related to inspections in Iraq. The next round of talks with the Iraqi side is scheduled to be held in Vienna on 4 and 5 July 2002. In the light of the possibility of resumed inspection work, the Commission is increasing its readiness by recruiting more staff for posts at Headquarters that had previously remained unfilled. A number of new posts have further been established to cover the additional work given to the Commission under resolution 1409 (2002).

Staffing

7. As of the end of May 2002, the UNMOVIC core staff, in the Professional grades at Headquarters, is composed of 58 persons (including four on short-term contracts) of 24 nationalities, eight of whom are women. In addition, there are 230 experts of 44 nationalities on the roster of trained experts available to serve the Commission in Iraq.

8. UNMOVIC has continued to engage the services of short-term consultants when particular expertise is not required through in-house staff on an ongoing

basis. The activities of the consultants have included the consolidation of background information on sites previously inspected and subject to monitoring to better assist inspection planning; the further analysis of Iraq's declarations on its biological weapons activities; the preparation of an Iraqi chemical and biological weapons munitions identification guide; the refinement of the formats for Iraq's monitoring declarations required under resolution 715 (1991); and various forms of support for the Commission's training activities.

Training

9. As part of its readiness for the conduct of work in Iraq, the Commission continues to attach high priority to the training of its staff and those on the roster. The fifth month-long basic training course, held in Switzerland, ended on 22 March. There were 54 participants, encompassing some 28 nationalities. With the completion of the fifth general training course, UNMOVIC has a roster of some 230 persons trained for work in Iraq.

10. In addition, UNMOVIC has continued with more specialized training for both existing staff and persons from the roster of trained experts. Such training is designed to develop practical skills to conduct on-site inspections as well as to perform specific inspection activities. More than 80 experts from the roster have already attended relevant courses conducted by the Commission since April 2001. The Commission's training for future potential chief inspectors (from among the headquarters core staff) continues. An enhanced training course for missile experts from the roster was held in May, devoted to inspection and monitoring of dual-use items and capabilities in Iraq. Such new courses will be provided to experts in all weapons areas under the mandate of UNMOVIC.

11. The Commission stands in gratitude to those Member States that have supported training activities.

Other activities

12. The Commission's experts have continued their work to "cluster" unresolved disarmament issues, which is a second stage in the preparation of the list of key remaining tasks to be included in the future work programme. A first draft of a list of cluster issues has been completed.

13. The Commission's experts have continued discussions with a number of international laboratories that may assist UNMOVIC with future sample analysis. They have also continued to evaluate sensors and other new technologies that may have application in the field in Iraq.

14. As part of its readiness for inspection in Iraq, the Commission's experts continue to work on the delineation and classification of sites in Iraq that have been subject to inspections in the past and may be in the future. The new revised formats for the declarations of the holdings and disposition of dual-use items and materials required of Iraq under Security Council resolution 715 (1991) is being finalized. Those formats may be discussed with the Iraqi side in the future.

15. The Commission has concluded a contract with a French research institute for a review of open source information published since the end of inspections in Iraq in 1998. There will be a particular emphasis on French, European and Middle Eastern sources. The Commission's contract with the Monterey Institute has also been extended to provide more open source material on an ongoing basis. With the increase in material available to UNMOVIC, the Commission is recruiting an open source information manager. Open source information remains an important non-inspection-related source for UNMOVIC.

16. The Senior Officer for Outside Information has continued to undertake liaison visits to a number of capitals as well as with permanent missions of Member States on the provision of information relevant to UNMOVIC's mandate.

17. The Commission remains grateful to those Member States that continue to provide it with overheard imagery from national assets. The Commission also continues to make use of commercially available satellite imagery, which is now received in colour. Imagery is both an important part of maintaining an accurate and up-to-date site database and a tool and basis for future inspection planning.

Export/import and the goods review list

18. Under the provisions of Security Council resolution 1051 (1996), the UNMOVIC/IAEA joint unit continues to receive notifications from Member States of supplies to Iraq of dual-use items. Iraq has, however, not provided its corresponding declarations.

19. The joint unit has also continued to review all contracts concluded with the Government of Iraq under the provisions of resolution 986 (1995) and to provide technical assistance to the Office of the Iraq Programme and to Member States.

20. With the passage of resolution 1409 (2002), which adopted the revised goods review list (S/2002/515) and revised procedures for its application, the role of UNMOVIC has been widened. In accordance with the procedures, UNMOVIC and IAEA must now evaluate applications to be financed from the escrow account established pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 986 (1995) in order to determine whether the application contains any item referred to in paragraph 24 of resolution 687 (1991) as it relates to military commodities and products, or military-related commodities or products covered by the goods review list. Given the wider scope of the list beyond dual-use items and materials related to weapons of mass destruction, UNMOVIC is in the process of recruiting a number of additional analysts to carry out that work. The most pressing current challenge for UNMOVIC lies in paragraph 18 of the procedures, wherein UNMOVIC is required to review for the presence of items on the list some 2,000 contracts currently on hold.

21. A new wide area link and associated secure communications infrastructure between New York and Vienna to support the work envisaged for UNMOVIC and the IAEA under the new goods review list and associated procedures have been established and tested. That system will also be used to exchange information (imagery, inspection reports etc.) on sites subject to monitoring in Iraq.

College of Commissioners

22. The ninth plenary session of the College of Commissioners was held in Vienna on 29 May 2002. As on previous occasions, in addition to the members of the College, observers from IAEA and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) attended.

23. The Executive Chairman gave the Commissioners an oral report on the work of UNMOVIC since the last session of the College, held in February 2002. He also briefed them on the March and May talks between the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Iraq and the technical talks he had had with Iraqi experts on 2 May 2002.

24. The College welcomed the presentation by the Director of UNMOVIC's Division of Information on the implementation by UNMOVIC of the goods review list and the associated procedures for its application approved recently by the Security Council in resolution 1409 (2002).

25. The College noted that the implementation of the goods review list and the new procedures would require additional human resources for UNMOVIC as well as space, and noted the efforts under way by the Chairman to deal with those matters.

26. The College also welcomed the presentation by the observer from the OPCW on the activities of that organization.

27. The College expressed its appreciation of the Chairman's comprehensive report on the two rounds of discussions between the Foreign Minister of Iraq and the Secretary-General. The Chairman's participation at those talks was welcomed.

28. The College welcomed the intention of the Executive Chairman, during the forthcoming talks with Iraq, to focus on Iraq's acceptance of the practical arrangements necessary for the resumption of inspections in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and agreements. The College was also in agreement with the Chairman that such clarification would be necessary before the deployment of any UNMOVIC inspectors in Iraq. Such clarification would also help avoid disputes and misunderstandings during the start and operation of UNMOVIC inspections.

29. The College decided to hold its next session on 29 and 30 August 2002 at United Nations Headquarters.

30. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were consulted on the contents of the present report.

Notes

[a] The Commission's eight previous reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835, S/2000/1134, S/2001/177, S/2001/515, S/2001/833, S/2001/1126 and S/2002/195.